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SUBJ: DECEMBER 27 SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY

1. SUMMARY. ASAD HELD SEPARATE MEETINGS DEC 26
WITH JORDANIAN PRIMIN BADRAN AND HEAD OF ROYAL DIWAN
SHARAF AND WITH MEMBERS OF PLO EXCOMM INCLUDING ARAFAT
AND MUHSIN. ACCORDING TO PALESTINIAN SOURCE, PLO
MODERATES WERE URGED TO BRING REJECTIONISTS UNDER CON-
TROL BEFORE SYRIANS DO IT FOR THEM. DISPATCH ALSO
CARRIED FROM KUWAIT IN WHICH PLO MODERATE KHALID AL-HASAN
ENDORSES SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN UNITY AND ASKS FOR PALESTINIAN
INCLUSION WHILE REJECTING ESTABLISHMENT PLO GOVERNMENT-
IN-EXILE UNTIL INVITATION TO GENEVA RECEIVED. ANOTHER
ARTICLE INDICATES LEBANESE PRIMIN HUSS WILL
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TELL PRES SADAT DURING HIS CAIRO VISIT OF LEBANON'S
PREPAREDNESS TO ATTEND GNEVA CONFERENCE IF INVITED.
BOTH PAPERS PUBLISHED DEC 27 GIVE PROMINENCE TO
SYRIAN-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE REPEATING USUAL
FORMULAS IN RELATION TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTIAN
RIGHTS AND INCLUDING SOME POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC

AGREEMENTS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CONTINUES REFLECT THEME SOUNDED SINCE CONCLUSION OF EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN TALKS WHICH UPHOLDS AGREEMENTS AS MEANS TO STRENGTHENING WAR-MAKING CAPABILITY IF GENEVA TALKS FAIL. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH AL-BAATH AND TISHRIIN LED WITH STORIES ON RESULTS OF ROMANIAN TALKS AND SPECIAL REPORT FROM U.N. ON IMPACT OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN UNITY AGREEMENT, BUT MORE IMPORTANT NEWS WOULD APPEAR TO BE MEETINGS ASAD HELD SUNDAY WITH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS BADRAN AND SHARAF AS WELL AS EARLIER MEETING ASAD HELD WITH MEMBERS OF PLO EXCOMM INCLUDING ARAFAT AND ZUHAYR MUHSIN. REGARDING ASAD-JORDANIAN MEETING, AL-BAATH REPORTED ONLY THAT "SUCCESSIVE STEPS REALIZED IN FIELD OF COORDINATION, INTEGRATION, AND UNIFICATION BETWEEN TWO BROTHER COUNTRIES WERE REVIEWED IN ADDITION TO GENERAL ME SITUATION." ATTENDING THIS MEETING ON SYRIAN SIDE WERE FORMER PRIMIN AND BAATH NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER MAHMUD AYYUBI, AF COMMANDER NAJI JAMIL, DEPUTY PRIMIN FOR SERVICES FAHMI YUSFI, PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT CENTRAL COMMAND MEMBER FAWZI KAYYALI (NASSERITE), AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS ADIB MILHIM.

2. MEDIA QUOTED UNNAMED "RESPONSIBLE PALESTINIAN SOURCE" THAT RECENT CLASHES IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON WERE LINKED TO IRAQI SCHEME AIMED AT PREVENTING STABILIZATION IN LEBANON. SOURCE SAID THAT IN ASAD'S MEETING YESTERDAY WITH ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO EXCOMM MEMBERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRES HAD EMPHASIZED "ABSENCE OF ANY WISH BY SYRIAN FORCES TO ENTER CAMPS AND THAT SYRIA CONTINUES TO PREFER SETTLEMENT OF SECURITY ISSUES INSIDE CAMPS BY PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES." SOURCE AFFIRMED THAT PALESTINIANS WILL DEAL WITH PROBLEM BECAUSE "CONSPIRATORIAL SCHEME" NOT ONLY TROUBLES ATMOSPHERE IN CAMPS BUT ALSO ENTIRE CITY OF BEIRUT AND HARMS THE ADF FORCE, WHICH IS NEITHER IN LEBANON'S INTEREST NOR THAT OF ARAB NATION BUT SERVES THE "ZIONIST CONSPIRACY." HE GOES ON TO LINK "SO-CALLED REJECTION FRONT" GROUPS TO "FASCIST" REGIME IN IRAQ. (COMMENT: IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE EXPRESSED SYRIAN WISH FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO DEAL WITH THE REJECTION FRONT GROUPS IN THE CAMPS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A THINLY VEILED WARNING THAT FURTHER OPPOSITION TO SYRIAN POLICY IN LEBANON EMANATING FROM SUCH GROUPS IN THE CAMPS COULD BE DEALT WITH BY SYRIANS IF PLO "MODERATES" ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO DEAL WITH IT THEMSELVES."

3. SANA ALSO CARRIED A DISPATCH FROM KUWAIT STATING THAT KHALID AL-HASAN, MEMBER OF THE PLO EXCOMM, WELCOMED RESULTS OF ASAD'S VISIT TO EGYPT AND DEMANDED PLO INCLUSION IN THE COALITION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR FORMING PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE BEFORE PLO RECEIVES INVITATION TO GENEVA. HE ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION.

4. AL-BAATH ALSO CARRIES STORIES OF SUPPORT FOR NEW-FOUND SYRO-EGYPTIAN UNITY, INCLUDING MESSAGE FROM ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL TO ASAD AND STATEMENT BY FORMER JORDANIAN PREMIER RIFA'I CALLING IT "SPLENDID UPHOLDING OF ARAB WORK." AL-BAATH ALSO QUOTES STORY FROM JORDANIAN NEWSPAPER AL-RA'I SAYING THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT WILL SEND JOINT DELEGATIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION, U.S., AND WESTERN EUROPE TO EXPLAIN "ISRAELI ATTEMPTS TO EVADE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT IMPORTANT MESSAGES WERE SENT TO THE CAPITALS OF THE GREAT POWERS EXPLAINING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT IN CASE OF FAILURE OF GENEVA ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS WAR. ANOTHER ARTICLE DEALS WITH VISIT OF LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER HUSS TO CAIRO AND SAYS HUSS WILL ADVISE SADAT OF LEBANON'S READINESS TO ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH SHOULD BE RECONVENED BEFORE END OF MARCH 1977.

5. SYRIAN-ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE: BOTH NEWSPAPERS GIVE PROMINENCE TO RESULTS OF PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA AND STRESS THAT JOINT STATEMENT BLAMED CONTINUATION OF TENSION IN MIDDLE EAST ON CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS, ITS REJECTION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND ITS PRACTICES IN THESE LANDS. STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN AREA MUST BE BASED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. BOTH COUNTRIES DEMANDED RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH PLO PARTICIPATION. SIGHING OF SEVERAL ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS ALSO MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDING OIL EXTRACTION, PROCESSING OF PHOSPHATES, AND EXPORT OF PHOSPHATE TO ROMANIA.

6. AL-BAATH CONTINUED TO PUBLISH LIST OF ALLEGED 119 "STRUGGLERS" PUT TO DEATH BY IRAQI REGIME OVER LAST THREE YEARS.

7. EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH CONTINUED TO FOLLOW SAME THEME EVIDENT SINCE SYRIA AGREED TO ESTABLISHING A JOINT POLITICAL COMMAND WITH EGYPT -- DUAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT IN REACHING ARAB OBJECTIVES BY EITHER NEGOTIATIONS OR WAR. EDITORIAL EVEN MANAGED TO INVERT CLAUSEWITZ'S FAMOUS MAXIM ABOUT WAR BEING DIPLOMACY BY OTHER MEANS BY CLAIMING THAT " THE

GENEVA CONFERENCE, IF HELD, SHOULD DEVOTE ITSELF TO
POLITICAL WORK WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXTENSION OF WAR TO
REALIZE GOALS OF JUST WAR." IT CHARACTERIZES BOTH THE
SYRIAN JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN UNITY AGREEMENTS
AS TAKING POSSIBILITY OF WAR INTO "FIRST CONSIDERATION"
IF GENEVA FAILS.
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